

-12 Aug 69

MEMORANDUM FOR : Deputy Director for Support

SUBJECT : Presidential Dinner Honoring Apollo 11 Astronauts

1. This memorandum is for information only.
2. Wednesday night, 13 August 1969, President Richard M. Nixon will be the host at a gala dinner-testimonial in the Century Plaza Hotel, Los Angeles, California, to honor the three Apollo 11 astronauts. In addition to the guests of honor, some 1500 VIP's have been invited. The impressive list includes high-ranking government officials and a cross section of prominent persons from many other fields including industry, the arts, the Diplomatic Corps, and the space program.
3. After what should be an exhausting day highlighted by receptions and parades before huge crowds in New York City and Chicago, the astronauts are scheduled to arrive aboard President Nixon's personal plane, Air Force One, at the International Airport in Los Angeles about 9:30 p. m. Helicopters will then take the men and their families directly to the Century Plaza Hotel, where they will be met by President and Mrs. Nixon.
4. Although there has been little advance information surfaced indicating planned disruptions will occur, it is assumed that extensive measures will have been taken by the Los Angeles Police Department, Secret Service, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and other appropriate agencies to guarantee a minimum of harassment and threat of disorder. Large crowds must be anticipated, in view of the occasion and the important personalities who will be present.

5. Reportedly the Student Mobilization Committee, which is controlled by the Young Socialist Alliance (youth arm of the Trotskyite Socialist Workers Party) is sponsoring a demonstration at the hotel during the dinner. Initially the demonstration was to consist of picketing, followed by a rally, to protest the cost of the U. S. space program and the failure to use these monies on other crucial domestic problems such as welfare. However, in order to obtain a more favorable public image and gain more support for the protest, the demonstration is now being publicized as a protest to the war in Vietnam. Enthusiasm for and general response to the SMC call seems to have been weak to date. The activist Women Strike for Peace pacifist group, for instance, has refused to either donate funds to the SMC or to participate in the demonstration. In addition to the SMC demonstration, it is expected that there will be some disruptive activity by individuals and perhaps small groups. No information has been noted of any planned action by minority groups. The SMC has demanded that the Los Angeles Police Department block off the streets near the hotel for the use of the demonstrators. No decision has been made yet, but it would seem more probable that the crowds will be kept at a reasonably safe distance from the hotel as a precautionary measure. It is the estimate of this office that the authorities will be able to maintain order in and at the hotel site.

Acting Director of Security

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cc: Situation Rpt file  
Chrono